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NORTHWESTERN  
UNIVERSITY

July 28, 2003

Mr. Carl Henderson  
Director, Office of Public Affairs RO  
536 S.Clark Street  
P.O.8136, Rm.668  
Chicago, Illinois 60605

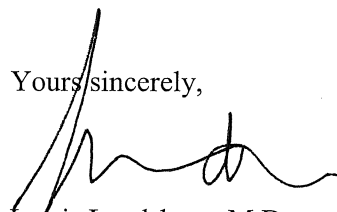
Dear Mr. Henderson,

As the Dean of Feinberg School of Medicine of Northwestern University, I am writing to express the position of this institution with regard to the Enhanced Use Lease of the VA Lakeside property since this is a matter that has important implications for the quality of and access to outstanding healthcare for our veterans as well as all of the citizens of the metropolitan Chicago area.

Access to the best medical care for our nation's veterans should be the underlying principle driving every decision the VA makes. The Northwestern/VA affiliation was the first in the nation and for over half a century our medical school has been guided by that principle in its relationship with the Lakeside facility. This affiliation is one that has been mutually beneficial and one that we value highly. To ensure the continuing strength of our affiliation, we made every attempt to keep the inpatient VA facility on this campus. Indeed, we went so far as to offer the VA the current Prentice Hospital for an inpatient and outpatient facility rent free thereby freeing up the present Lakeside land for extended use leasing. The VA chose nonetheless to consolidate all inpatient activity at the Westside campus. We regret that decision, but our desire to provide the best medical care possible to our veterans within the constraints imposed by this move is not diminished.

To ensure that our veterans as well as all the other citizens of the greater Chicago area continue to have access to the best of medical care, we believe it is important for the VA to get fair market value for the vacated land and that the use of this land be retained for medical purposes. The monies from a fair market lease, if allocated for the construction of the necessary inpatient and outpatient facilities for the Chicago VA, will help our veterans to continue to receive excellent medical care. The land, which originally belonged to Northwestern University, is located in the heart of one of our nation's leading academic medical centers and abuts NMH and the RIC. These institutions along with our medical school faculty have for decades provided both outstanding medical care and been important engines for economic growth for Chicago and its citizens. The ability of NMH and RIC to grow and thereby continue to make these important contributions is, however, seriously constrained by the lack of other available land in the Streeterville neighborhood. For these reasons, it is critical that this land be retained for medical purposes.

Yours sincerely,



Lewis Landsberg, M.D.